

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for load balanced and fault tolerant aggregation and display of information,
2 said apparatus comprising:
3 a first web server receiving a transaction, said transaction comprising a first and second
4 request;
5 a first and second agent server; and
6 a load-balancing module;
7 wherein the first web server assigns the first request to one of said first and second agent
8 servers responsive to said load-balancing module and assigns the second request to one of said
9 first and second agent servers responsive to the load-balancing module.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a state server connected to at least one of
2 said first and second agent servers and providing persistent storage for information.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said state server comprises a relational database.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second web server, wherein one of said
2 first and second agent servers sends a first request to one of said first and second web servers
3 responsive to said load-balancing module and sends a second request to one of said first and
4 second web servers responsive to said load-balancing module.
- 5 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said first web server is in communication with said
6 second web server.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each agent server comprises a dispatcher for
2 instantiating at least one of an assimilation agent and an integration server.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a communications module in
2 communications with said first web server, said communications module in communication with
3 a network.

- 1 8. A method for load-balanced and fault tolerant aggregation and display of information in
2 an apparatus comprising a web server, a first agent server, a second agent server, and a load-
3 balancing module, said method comprising the steps:
4 (a) receiving, by a web server, a first request;
5 (b) assigning, by said web server, said first request to one of a first agent server and a
6 second agent server responsive to a load-balancing module;
7 (c) receiving, by said web server, a second request; and
8 (d) assigning, by said web server, said second request to one of said first agent server and
9 said second agent server responsive to said load-balancing module.